

LEARNING RIGHTS LAW CENTER

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Jack O'Connell, CDE
Fax: 1-916-319-0967

RE: California High School Exit Exam

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

This letter is written to you on behalf of several parents that I met with on Saturday December 10, 2005. I was given permission to send you a letter to describe the issues I heard about the CAHSEE at our meeting.

All the parents we talked with are dedicated parents who want their children to become productive adults and get an education that is meaningful. The parents are very concerned about the education system and that their children are not getting all the supports they need.

Their names are as follows:

1. [REDACTED] Parent of a special needs high school student in the [REDACTED] Unified School District.
2. [REDACTED] Parent of a special needs high school student in the [REDACTED] Unified School District.
3. [REDACTED] Parent of a special needs high school student in the [REDACTED] Unified School District.
4. [REDACTED] Parent of a special needs high school student in the [REDACTED] Unified School District.
5. [REDACTED] Parent of a special needs high school student in the [REDACTED] Unified School District.
6. [REDACTED] Parent advocate special needs students.

Here are the concerns we heard from the parents and advocate:

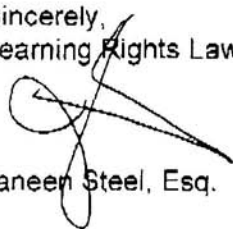
1. Concerns about what the CAHSEE exam is:
 - a. Some parents have never heard of the CAHSEE exam.
 - b. Some of the parents did not understand what the exam includes or the requirements.
 - c. One parent did not understand the difference between the CAPA and CAHSEE.
 - d. Some parents asked whether the CAHSEE for special education was the same as general education.

2. Mr. [REDACTED], Ms. [REDACTED], Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] require translation of materials and oral explanations in their native language, Spanish. They have not received clear information from the school district about what the CAHSEE exam includes and what it requires of the student to graduate.
3. Concerns about the support for the CAHSEE.
 - a. Some parents were not aware of any support for the CAHSEE.
 - b. Other parents said the support for the CAHSEE was after school not within the school day.
 - c. Some parents were concerned that their children are far below grade level and how are they going to pass the CAHSEE.
4. There were parents that were concerned that they had heard children had passed the CAHSEE whose skills were very low.

To learn more about the Learning Rights Law Center please review our website at www.learningrights.org

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like me to organize parents to come speak with you.

Sincerely,
Learning Rights Law Center



Janeen Steel, Esq.